

# The Topeka State Journal.

10 CENTS A WEEK.

5 O'CLOCK. TOPEKA, KANSAS, MONDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 5, 1894.

TWENTY-SECOND YEAR.

## VAILLANT GONE

His Head Was Chopped Off This Morning.

Shouted Vive L'Anarchie to the Last.

## THE GLEAMING KNIFE

Did Its Work Quickly and Effectively.

Great Crowds Witness the Execution Despite Secrecy.

PARIS, Feb. 5.—Auguste Vaillant, the anarchist who, on December 9 last, threw a bomb into the chamber of deputies, was executed at 7:30 o'clock this morning. His last words were: "Death to society. Long live anarchy."

The execution of Vaillant was a decided surprise to the people of this city, who have for a week past been haunting the neighborhood of the Place de la Republique in anticipation of witnessing Vaillant's execution. As late Sunday afternoon it was reported that Premier Casimir-Périer and M. Dupuy, president of the chamber of deputies, favored a commutation of the anarchist's offense, and it was said that even if he was executed at all, he would not be decapitated until the middle of this week.

But into last evening, throughout Paris, in some mysterious manner, it became known that Vaillant was to be executed, and people soon afterwards began gathering about the neighborhood of the famous prison of La Roquette, and at 2 o'clock this morning, in spite of the fact that it was raining, quite a large crowd had gathered about the prison and watched the workmen erecting barricades across all the streets leading to the square, from which the people were soon afterwards driven by the police.

Arriving there, Vaillant, in reply to a question as to whether he had any statement to make, began making a strong profession of anarchy, defending it as burning words until it was gently suggested to him that such remarks were useless and out of place. Contrary to expectation, Vaillant did not speak of his mistress, Madame Marchal, or of his daughter, Salomé, whose alleged letter asking for a commutation of her father's sentence has

been read in court. Twice during the preparations for death, Vaillant refused to see the prison chaplain, saying upon one of these occasions: "I do not believe in religion. It is a sham. Let these so-called professors give some evidence of it by extending a helping hand to the deserving poor. This will do more to crusade anarchy than all the armories in the world."

At exactly 7:30 a.m. in the veteran office in command of the gardes républicains gave the order to "close the words." Very soon afterwards the iron gates of the prison were swung open and Vaillant appeared, head erect and defiant, between M. Diebler and his assistants. The crowd was too close to gather that no chaplain accompanied the condemned man and it was said in a loud tone from several among those gathered to witness the execution: "He die a true anarchist!" Here and there, as Vaillant appeared, were heard faint cries of "Vive l'anarchie!"

When Vaillant neared the guillotine, he glanced upward at the gleaming knife suspended between the two uprights, the blade shining out clear and distinct owing to the rays of the many lanterns around the scaffold, and then he shouted "Vive l'anarchie!"

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A moment later, as he was ascending the steps leading to the platform of the guillotine, the disolute anarchist shouted "A mort les bourgeois!" (Death to the bourgeoisie). As he uttered this cry Vaillant reached the foot of the sliding plank which leads the body of the criminal when strapped upon it, beneath the knife. After one quick push, he cried: "Death to society!"

A spark of blood and the head fell. Vaillant had hardly uttered these words when he was seized by M. Diebler's assistant and thrown upon the sliding plank or bascule, on which he was strapped with remarkable rapidity, and in less time than it takes to write it, his body was thrust through the timet, or in the whole of the scaffold, upon which a half circle of looking pieces falls after the head is through a spring was touched and a sliding knife above the neck was sped downward with a swift and noiseless movement. There was a terrible spurt of blood and the head of Vaillant separated from its trunk, fell into the basket of sawdust and shied away from the scene of the execution at a gallop.

When the execution was standing complete and ready for its deadly work, on the well marked spot in the center of the Place, the executioner, lantern in hand, carefully examined every part of the machine, finding the wicker basket nearly full of sawdust, which was to receive the head of the anarchist.

While the work of the execution was in progress, M. Diebler informed the police officers in charge of the place that there seemed to be less space than usual in the square, but the officers informed the executioner that the crowd was kept at the usual distance, to which M. Diebler replied: "Well, never mind, a bomb might be thrown from the barriers." The executioner, after consultation, determined to take the executioner's hint, and the barriers at the different streets and about the various portions of the square were ordered to be moved backward.

**President Carnot Threatened.**

While this work was in progress, the report reached the group of newspaper men who assembled to witness the execution that President Carnot had recently received several threatening letters.

Rev. M. V. McKirahan said many of the poor are loafers and not workers; they are wasteful and need to be educated in thrift as well as society.

Rev. R. Wake said it is the duty of the churches and the pulpit, to confine their attention less to another world and pay more attention to the life that now is.

In the discussion Rev. Charles M. Sheldon said the preachers should preach on topics of the times and represent to the people that Jesus Christ was the greatest statesman of the ages.

C. R. Green, a colored preacher, said there are too many velvet-mouthed bread and butter preachers.

If the body of the anarchist is unclaimed, it will go to the Academy of Medicine; but it is understood that representatives of some of the socialist societies have announced their intention of asking for permission to bury the remains of the executed man.

As the body was being carried away, the crowds made a tremendous rush for the guillotine, but were repelled by the troops, and police were compelled to remain in front until the guillotine had been removed.

Thanks to the efforts of the authorities, there was no disorder at the execution, but this was probably due to the large number of police and soldiers.

One of the features of the execution was the fact that among the crowd gathered to witness it, was a large number of people, male and female, in masquerade dress, who had come from the balls held last night. Among some of the women present were some of the lowest of the demi-monde, who behaved in the most outrageously indecent manner.

M. Diebler, the newspaper man's informant added, "now leaves the job of holding the ears to one of his assistants. We don't believe Vaillant will bite, however."

The police arrangements were admirable, and long before the hour set for the execution, complete order prevailed everywhere, and the chief of the municipal police came towards the prison with his lieutenants to prepare the real business of the day. By this time the rain

had stopped, and over point of vantage about the place De La Roquette had been occupied.

Turned Deadly Pole.

The judicial authorities arrived at the prison at 12 o'clock, and entering the cell occupied by Vaillant, they woke him and informed him that his last hour had arrived. Vaillant did not seem so in the least astonished or much alarmed. He turned deadly pale, it is true, but he began dressing with all the haste which would be expected, and remarked to one of the prison attendants: "You see I was right in saying that my sentence would not be confirmed."

It was evident from the manner in which he said this that he was considerably disappointed and that he had built up strong hopes of clemency upon the part of the president of the French government. While Vaillant was dressing, one of the officers, noticing that the anarchist's hands trembled slightly as he put on his clothes, said: "Have courage, Vaillant." To this Vaillant smiled in a sickly way and turned up his head up, replied: "Never fear, I will know how to die."

At this point of the toilette, one of the prison officials offered Vaillant a large glass of some strong brandy intended to brace up the condemned man's nerves, but Vaillant nearly put it to one side, saying: "I have no need of artificial strength and despair is man who needs brandy to nerve him to meet his fate."

This calm and courageous bearing of the anarchist won him the sympathy of everybody present, and a veteran officer of the guard who was present said in an undertone: "That is not artificial courage."

Later one of the attendants offered to assist Vaillant in dressing for his march to the guillotine, but the doomed man gently but firmly refused and said: "I will not delay you any longer than I can help."

Religion Is All a Sham.

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been read in court.

Several thousand spectators have been issued to witness the execution.

The night was pitch dark when the work of erecting the guillotine was commenced. The lower classes sent representatives who appeared to be in sympathy with the man about to be executed and were loud in their blasphemies and threats of what would happen in the heat torture if the present condition of affairs continued. Shortly before 3 o'clock a detachment of the garde républicaine was fixed upon the spot and the center of the Place de la Roquette was cleared. Large squads of mounted gardes republiques arrived on the spot.

The arrival of the military caused the crowd to disperse and there was a rush of men and women up the rear of La Roquette, where the police to make a determined counter movement sweeping this crowd backward until order was completely restored.

At this time fifty thousand people of various description and garde républicaine gave the order to "close the words." Very soon afterwards the iron gates of the prison were swing open and Vaillant appeared, head erect and defiant, between M. Diebler and his assistants. The crowd was too close to gather that no chaplain accompanied the condemned man and it was said in a loud tone from several among those gathered to witness the execution: "He die a true anarchist!" Here and there, as Vaillant appeared, were heard faint cries of "Vive l'anarchie!"

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## TO TRY INGERSOLL.

Salvation Army to Bring Col. Bob to the Bar.

A Mock Trial in Which He is Defendant.

## SUBPOENAS ISSUED

For Several Thousand Witnesses to Testify.

Ingersoll Smiles and Says They Mean All Right.

CHICAGO, Feb. 5.—The Salvation Army is after Colonel Robert G. Ingersoll. Divesting itself of its militant character and assuming for the purpose in hand the character of a civil tribunal, the army, through its head local representative, W. W. Winchell, has summoned the "Prince of Paganism" to appear and answer cause why he is sued.

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